

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 9, 1888, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Conard-Royal-Mail-Steamship Cunard-Royal-Mail-Steamship — “Aurania” Queenstown, June 9th, 1888. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, Hotel Rivoli, Paris. My darling wife:

I am glad to feel that I am within reach of you at last, and that a few hours could bring me to Paris and see you all. I have been much troubled by newspaper reports of the accident on board the Burgogue — What a passage you must have had! Anxious to hear all the news. Write a good long letter to me to the Langham Hotel — seems an eternity since I heard from you.

Couldn't you spare me Elsie or Daisy just to keep me company in London — My ears ache for the sound of your voices — and my eyes for a sight of you all — your good Mamma and Papa — and little Gipsy too. Just pack one of the children up — and send by express to the Langham Hotel “This side up with care.”

My mother was very well when I left — hope to receive a cablegram soon — saying she continues well.

My Circular Letter to American and Canadian schools for the deaf — has resulted in a batch of 58 reports!

Mr. Hitz and I have been busy all the time compiling statistics and getting everything in order. I am surprised at the amount and value of the material I bring with me. Just as I was leaving Washington — a reporter appeared to interview me on behalf of the London Globe. I gave him a dose of Telephone mixed in with the Deaf variety of the human race.

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He seemed a very gentlemanly man — well educated — much superior in every way to the average American Reporter.

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Charlie and Grace and the babies were all well when I left — enjoying the beauties of Twin Oaks. I have your belt from Dr. Hunter. What shall I do with it? Can I send it by mail — or would you have the mortification of having to open the parcel in the presence of a Custom House officer. Find out from your father how I had better send it.

Dr. Thos. Gallaudet — brother of Dr. G. M. of Washington — is a fellow passenger on board the Aurania. He has not been invited by the Royal Commission but has come out for rest and recreation. I thought at first — he had come out to watch my testimony before Royal Commission but I am inclined to think his presence a coincidence.

He celebrated his 66th birthday on board the Aurania in his state-room which happens to be number 66!

Goodbye my dear little wife. Love to Elsie — Daisy — Grandpapa — Grandmamma and Gipsy.

Your loving husband, Alec. P. S. Can you give me the address of Sophie or Chester — or of my Uncle Edward Symonds. Alec.